

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 3 Issue 1

From the Editor

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Lone Star Regional. We're offering Gold Rush Pairs Tuesday thru Saturday and Bracketed Swiss every day. In my view, these are the best events to win those needed gold points.

On Friday Jan 27 at 5:30 pm there will be a presentation of the D16 Teacher of the Year Award. Come participate in the festivities!!! The winner has been nominated by their students, so start thinking now about nominating your favorite teacher for next year's award.

I'm interested in your feedback, so please send your comments to paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net.

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Education Chair

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From Sheryl Thomas - Unit 174

Happy New Year!! I hope this year brings you peace, prosperity and fun at the bridge table!!



There are no tournaments to report for December. Really??

Well, on to our person of the month. Carol Teufel recently reached the rank of Junior Master. Carol

is just a delightful person and a member of our dinner club.



Now, her bio.

I was born in Paducah, Kentucky, raised in Jefferson City, Missouri and came to Houston the year I graduated from high school with my mom and sister.

My professional career included working in clinical laboratories, secretary to presidents of two large companies and the chief engineer of Dresser SIE. My finally career move was working in intellectual property law for 35 years.

I majored in music at University of Houston, but did not finish because of my love of IP law.


I have one son and married twice. Both husbands are deceased.

I am rather new to duplicate bridge, although my mother played for years. My son and I began to play with her in her late fifties. I began to take lessons from Betsy DuBose to unlearn some old Goren ideas. I was quickly addicted to duplicate bridge and fascinated by the many "sharks" that

would defeat me. I was determined to improve my game!!




My focus for the past 10 years has been competing internationally with Houston Horizon Chorus, singing four part harmony a Capella competitively traveling around the country. This really

took me away from the bridge table! 

Many years prior to my husband's death, we were in charge of the evening bridge games for the Welcome Neighbors Club in Clear Lake.

Thanks for sharing your most interesting and colorful biography!! 

Don't forget our upcoming Lone Star Regional at the Westchase Marriott, January 23-29th!! Come

out and have a great time!! 

Well, that's it for me!! Susan Banks will be taking over for me next month. Please feel free to let her know as you reach new rankings. We would love to highlight you. It's been a pleasure to report our activities!!

See you at the bridge tables!

Happy Bidding!! ♠️♦️♥️♣️

Better Bridge Habits

Study Every Day

Developing good habits is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on daily study.

I'm sure many of you have made resolutions to improve your bridge game in 2017. I know I have. I've found that one of the best ways to improve is to develop a habit of daily study.

Whether you choose to learn from books or CDs, I'd like to encourage you to pick a topic and then work your way through it by studying for 15 – 20 minutes a day. Eddie Kantar, Mike Lawrence and Larry Cohen offer both books and CDs and it is hard to go wrong with them.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When the bid to your right is strong, a jump by you is weak; when the bid to your right is weak, a jump by you is strong.

East South (you)

2H 3S 3S is strong because 2H is weak.

North East South (you)

1D Dbl. 2H 2H is weak because 'double' is strong. www.kantarbridge.com

Improved Declarer Play

Improving Declarer Play

As declarer, many times the ability to make our contract depends on playing one of the suits in a way that maximizes our chance to take tricks. The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge by ACBL has a section on playing card combinations. Here is a combination from the Encyclopedia:

Q 10 x

K x x

You are the declarer and the bidding has indicated East has most the missing HCP as he opened the bidding. Lead low to the King. If it wins, finesse the 10. There is a 51% chance of 2 tricks.

Demon Defense

Signaling against Suit Contracts – Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” that defensive signals come in 3 packages:

1. Attitude: how you feel about the suit partner has led
2. Count: how many cards you have in a particular suit
3. Suit Preference: which suit you want partner to lead

Count signals are used to tell partner and declarer how many cards you hold in the suit being led by declarer or dummy. If you play Standard signals, a relative high card shows an even number of cards and a relative low card shows an odd number. Once your partner knows how many cards you have in the suit, he knows how many declarer has and can improve his count of the distribution of all 4 suits around the table. Giving count is very important when you have supported partner’s suit Here is an example:

N – Q85

W – AKJ94

E – 10732

S – 6

Partner has bid the suit and you supported. Partner leads a high honor and needs to know how many you hold to decide how to continue the defense. Here you play the 7 to show you raised with 4 pieces. Partner knows declarer has a singleton and plays accordingly. www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

A book worth owning and reading is “**A Treasury of Bridge Tips**” by **Eddie Kantar**. In it he offers the following advice:

A 2H response to partner’s opening bid of 1S promises 5 hearts. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Law 27 - Insufficient Bid

Insufficient Bid – We’ve all done it and seen partner or the opponents do it. The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

“An insufficient bid is accepted if LHO calls. Similarly, LHO should always be given the option to accept the insufficient bid. If accepted, the auction then proceeds as though there had been no irregularity. If either non-offender points out that the bid is insufficient, that does not suggest acceptance of the insufficient bid, nor is it an exercise of any options available to the nonoffenders.

NOTE: Especially when bidding boxes are in use, the Director needs to ascertain, away from the table, if the call was inadvertent (i.e., due to a mechanical error – Law

25A). Many times a player may be too embarrassed to relate that fact to the Director in front of other players. In addition, if the Director inquires at the table, he may pass unauthorized information.

When the insufficient bid is not accepted:

1. if the insufficient bid is corrected by the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination, and the director determines that neither the insufficient bid nor the sufficient substitute are artificial, the auction proceeds without rectification.

NOTE: In investigating other insufficient bids, outlined below, the director would be well served to move the bidder away from the table in order to investigate agreements, meanings and possible legal and illegal corrections.

Moving the player away from the table will negate any unauthorized information that may be transmitted.

2. if the insufficient bid is corrected by any other call that has the same meaning, or a more precise meaning, the director should allow the auction to continue. If later the Director determines that the offenders have gained some advantage, and the score on the board may well have been different without the original insufficient bid, a score adjustment may be due the nonoffenders.

3. except as in #1 and #2 immediately above, if the offender corrects his insufficient bid with any other bid or pass, his

partner must pass throughout the remainder of the auction and lead penalties may apply.

4. the Director should caution the offender that a double or a redouble may not be substituted for the insufficient bid (except when that call has, in the Director's opinion, the same or more precise meaning as the insufficient bid). If a double or redouble is substituted, except as noted, the offender must replace this call with a legal action, partner must pass throughout the remainder of the auction and the lead restrictions of Law 26 may apply.

EXAMPLES:

1NT – 2♣ – 2♣ Here the 2♣ call, a transfer bid, may be legally corrected to 3♣ if this pair plays “transfer on” (same meaning). The Director would allow the auction to continue.

With one side only in the auction: 1♣ – 3♣

4NT – 4♣

Here the responder was answering his partner's ace-asking inquiry.

The Director should allow a correction to 5D without penalty or rectification.

1NT – 2♣ – 2♣ Here the 2♣ call is simple Stayman. If this pair plays a cue bid of 3♣ as asking for a four-card major, such a correction should be allowed (same meaning as 2♣) without penalty.

Similarly, if this pair played no conventions over their 1NT

opening (unlikely as that may be), 2♣ showing clubs, a correction to 3♣ could also be made without penalty.

2NT – Pass – 2♣ Playing transfer bids, the Director should allow a correction to 3♣, same meaning.”